

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-67. Claims 1-28 and 35-67 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Reconsideration of claims 29-34 is expressly requested.

Initially, as a formal matter, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge their claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority Japanese application. This certified copy may be found in the IFW of the present case.

Claims 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0263665 A1 (Schaevitz).

Applicants respectfully submit that Schaevitz is not prior art. Specifically, the earliest effective filing date of this reference, presuming that a provisional application of which it claims benefit provides sufficient support for the subject matter relied upon by the Examiner, is May 18, 2005. The present application, however, is a national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/018337 and has a filing date of December 2, 2004, i.e., before the earliest effective filing date of Schaevitz. Therefore, the rejections over Schaevitz should be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that no issues remain outstanding. As stated in the Written Opinion, which was issued during the international stage of the subject national stage application, the present claims were deemed novel and inventive.

Wherefore, expedient issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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